

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 01185 270959Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00

/055 W

----- 045302

R 270725Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

SECSTATE WASHDC 6382

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1185

USIAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: VOA RELOCATION

REF: TOKYO 1146

1. REFTEL REPORTED REQUEST BY FONMIN DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS YAMAZAKI FOR LETTER FROM EMBASSY ASSURING GOJ THAT VOA WILL CEASE OPERATIONS IN OKINAWA BY MAY 15, 1977, DESPITE OMISSION OF VOA RELOCATION CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FROM FY-77 BUDGET REQUEST. PROPOSED TEXT OF EMBASSY LETTER OF ASSURANCES WAS INCLUDED.

2. THIS TELEGRAM DEALS WITH YAMAZAKI'S CONCERNS ABOUT PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN CLOSE-OUT OF VOA FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL IN OKINAWA. THESE PROBLEMS INVOLVE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT, LAND, LOCAL PERSONNEL, AND ANY TEMPORARY RESIDUAL PRESENCE AFTER MAY 15, 1977 FOR CLEAN-UP PURPOSES. YAMAZAKI EXPRESSED CONCERN WHETHER USIA HAD BUDGET FOR CLOSE-OUT COSTS DESPITE LOSS OF NEW CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. HE ASKED FOR A CONCRETE SCHEDULE OF PHASE-OUT PLANS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 01185 270959Z

A. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: BOTH FONMIN AND USIS ARE AWARE THAT NHK HAS INSPECTED THE FACILITIES, BUT NEITHER KNOW WHETHER NHK HAS DESIRE TO ACQUIRE OR OPERATE ANY OF THESE. YAMAZAKI WILL INQUIRE INFORMALLY OF NHK, BUT FONMIN HAS NO GROUNDS ON WHICH TO MAKE ANY REQUEST TO NHK. USIS EXPECTATION IS THAT NHK IS NOT INTERESTED, BUT WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS. FAILING A REQUEST FROM NHK TO TAKE OVER FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT, FONMIN VIEW IS THAT ALL SHOULD BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF BY U.S., AND LAND RESTORED TO ORIGINAL CONDITION OR LANDOWNERS OTHERWISE SATISFIED BY USIA SETTLEMENT WITH THEM. DESPITE FACT THAT \$16 MILLION OF JAPANESE OVERALL PAYMENT FOR U.S. BUILT OKINAWA FACILITIES WAS EARMARKED FOR VOA RELOCATION, YAMAZAKI EXPRESSED INFORMAL VIEW THAT FONMIN WOULD NOT PRESS ANY CLAIM FOR EQUITY IN FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT NOW IN OKINAWA. REASON IS THAT THIS \$16 MILLION HAS BEEN KEPT SECRET FROM OTHER MINISTRIES, THE DIET, AND THE PUBLIC OF JAPAN. EVEN MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED BY FONMIN, AND IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR FONMIN TO PRESS ANY CLAIM NOW. THEY PREFER TO LEAVE THE \$16 MILLION UNIDENTIFIED IN TOTAL GOJ PAYMENT, AND ASK THAT USIA WASHINGTON DO THE SAME, AND AVOID ANY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THIS PAYMENT FROM JAPAN.

B. LAND: IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEASE AGREEMENTS, GOJ LOOKS TO VOA TO SATISFY THE LANDOWNERS EITHER BY RETURNING THE LAND TO ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION OR BY OTHERWISE ARRANGING COMPENSATION THROUGH TRADE-OFFS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. THEY FEAR THESE NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE PROTRACTED AND TROUBLESOME POLITICALLY.

C. EMPLOYEES: THIS APPEARS TO BE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM, AND HAS BEEN FOCUS OF QUESTIONING IN THE DIET. FONMIN HOPES TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT VOA EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE BENEFITS NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN THOSE OF DISCHARGED JAPANESE EMPLOYEES OF U.S. MILITARY UNDER MASTER LABOR CONTRACT. EMBASSY IS WORKING WITH FONMIN ON COMPARABILITY STUDY, BUT DIFFERENCE IN SYSTEMS MAKE ANALYSIS DIFFICULT. SINCE FEW IF ANY VOA LOCAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 01185 270959Z

EMPLOYEES WILL QUALIFY FOR IMMEDIATE ANNUITY, WE FACE REQUESTS BOTH FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND FOR ASSISTANCE IN FINDING NEW JOBS. CHARGE DISCOURAGED ANY HOPE THAT WE COULD DO EITHER, BUT PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REQUEST MAY NOT GO AWAY EASILY.

D. RESIDUAL PRESENCE AFTER MAY 15, 1977. FONMIN POINTED OUT THAT NO LEGAL AUTHORITY EXISTS FOR ANY AMERICAN

VOA PRESENCE IN OKINAWA AFTER MAY 15, 1977. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT OKINAWA REVERSION AGREEMENT ONLY REQUIRES U.S. TO CEASE OPERATIONS BY MAY 15, 1977, NOT TO HAVE ALL PERSONS AND EQUIPMENT OUT OF OKINAWA. WE COULD NOT MOVE EVERYTHING OUT ON THE DAY BROADCASTING STOPPED. YAMAZAKI DID NOT DISPUTE THIS, BUT FUJII AND NUMATA SAID THEY WERE POINTING OUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN STATUS THAT NEEDED TO BE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER MAY 15, 1977, THERE WOULD BE NO LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FREQUENCY AUTHORIZATION BETWEEN VOA CLOSE-OUT STAFF AND EITHER EMBASSY OR VOA WASHINGTON.

3. IN CLOSING YAMAZAKI RENEWED REQUEST TO KNOW OUR PLANNING AND TO START EARLY ON JOINT CONSULTATIONS OVER DETAILS OF PHASE-OUT, SO THAT SUCH PROBLEMS MAY BE MINIMIZED. CHARGE AGREED TO ASK WASHINGTON FOR EARLY INSTRUCTIONS SO THAT JOINT PLANNING CAN BEGIN SOON.

4. STATE 17734 RECEIVED AFTER THIS TELEGRAM WAS PREPARED. WE WILL INVESTIGATE QUESTIONS RAISED, BUT AS PRELIMINARY WE DOUBT THAT POTENTIAL USER WILL BE FOUND OR THAT GOJ WILL BE PREPARED TO OFFER ANY FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS FOR EARLY DEPARTURE.
MILLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, TERRITORIAL REVERSION, RADIO BROADCASTING, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO001185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760030-0699
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760116/aaaaannl.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 1146
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VOA RELOCATION
TAGS: ETEL, JA, US, VOA
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006